

Application Number 09/823,233
Responsive to Office Action mailed October 24, 2005

REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the Final Office Action dated October 24, 2005. Applicant has amended claims 1, 2, 6, 9, 10, 12, 14 and 15, and cancelled claims 4, 5, 7, 8, 17 and 18. Claims 1-3, 6, 9-16 are pending upon entry of this amendment.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 7 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In particular, the Examiner pointed out that the term "the individual members" of claim 7 no longer had clear antecedent support after the Amendment filed August 10, 2005.

Applicant has cancelled claims 7 and 8, and amended claim 6 to include the limitations of these claims. Applicant submits that claim 6, as amended, particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter, as required by 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Allowable Subject matter

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 5, 8 and 13 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims (see, pg 9 of the Action).

In this amendment, Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to include the limitations of dependent claim 5 and intervening claim 4. Applicant has amended independent claim 6 to include the limitations of dependent claim 8 and intervening claim 7. Applicant has amended independent claims 9 and 14 in a manner similar to claim 1. Finally, Applicant has cancelled independent claim 17 and dependent claim 18. Consequently, all claims 1-3, 6, 9-16 include subject matter indicated allowable by the Examiner and, therefore, are in a condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests prompt allowance of all pending claims. Applicant does not acquiesce to the Examiner rejection of the previously pending claims in view of the cited art.

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Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to deposit account number 50-1778. The Examiner is invited to telephone the below-signed attorney to discuss this application.

Date:

By:

November 11, 2005
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